

Other Information Pertinent to BLM OR/WA SSS Program

Specimen ID and Vouchering

For the former S&M species added to BLM OR/WA as Sensitive or Assessment, field units should continue the identification and vouchering process previously used by the S&M Program. This will be new for those field units outside the NWFP area in which former S&M species are added as SSS. In addition now, the vouchering process is in effect for all BS and BA bryophyte, fungi, lichen, and mollusk species (not just former Survey and Manage species added to SSSP).

Specimen Processing Description

The following requirements for voucher collections needing identification/verification apply to all pre-project and inventory survey BS or BA fungi, lichen, bryophyte, and mollusk specimens. Specimens should include known or suspected SSS and other unknown specimens that cannot be identified at the field level. Once the specimen has been identified, the field unit will be notified as to the species determination. At the discretion of the taxa expert, specimens may be returned to the field units to provide local reference material following species identification.

For lichens, bryophytes and fungi at least one voucher specimen should be collected at each potential known site. In the case of lichens and bryophytes the field unit can request from the taxa expert that a duplicate specimen be returned (the field unit should collect enough material so that a duplicate specimen can be returned). For mollusks, one specimen should be collected per survey area (e.g. timber sale unit). The best available mollusk specimen, preferably an adult, should be collected. Instructions for handling and sending specimens are available from the taxa expert.

The following information must accompany each specimen: date of collection, collector, collection number, location (including directions, UTM coordinates, type of survey, habitat, etc.) and preliminary species identification, if available.

It is expected that identifications should take no longer than 10 weeks for the field to be notified of identifications. Field offices should build in enough planning time to include the identification of SSS specimens.

For bryophytes and lichens, send specimens to Judy Harpel at:

Judy Harpel
Gifford Pinchot NF HQ
10600 NE 51st Circle
Vancouver, WA 98682
Phone: 306-891-5121
FAX: 306-891-5045
E-Mail: jharpel@fs.fed.us

For mollusks, send specimens to Nancy Duncan at:

Nancy Duncan
Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District Office
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
Telephone: (541)464-3338
FAX: 541-440-4948
E-Mail: Nancy_Duncan@or.blm.gov

For fungi, send any incidental finds to:

Corvallis Forest Sciences Lab
Mycology Lab
3200 SW Jefferson Way
Corvallis, OR 97331
Phone: 541-750-7489
FAX: 541-750-7329

None of the other taxonomic groups in S&M required a rigorous identification and vouchering process, and no new procedures are proposed for any other taxa. Continue with whatever vouchering and identification was established or utilized for these other taxa.

In FY05 this procedure may change.

Transitional Data Management

To facilitate the transition of the program for the former S&M species, the following policy will be in effect for BLM OR/WA.

- For field offices included in the NWFP, use ISMS for all S&M species sites discovered prior to April 21, 2004. Use ISMS for all sites discovered between April 22, 2004 and September 30, 2004, for the former S&M species added to the SSSP program.
- At the choice of the field offices, ISMS may also be used for incidentally discovered sites of former S&M species that were not added to the SSS Program. The database can also be used for existing SSS that fit the ISMS data model and that have site definitions consistent with those currently used in ISMS. Species from other Classes/Orders/Families that do not have a site definition should not be entered.
- Field offices outside of the NWFP boundaries will not use ISMS.
- ISMS will be replaced by the Geographic Biotic Observations ArcGIS application (GeoBOB), in the first quarter of FY05. BLM OR/WA Westside, and possibly eastside will use GeoBOB for a large segment of the SSS Program and some T/E

species. The State Director will make a final determination on how widespread the use of GeoBOB will be later this FY.

- Additional information for the BLM can be found in Information Bulletin No. OR-2004-106, transmitted April 13, 2004.

Information for field units outside the NWFP

A review of the former S&M species for addition to BLM OR/WA SSS Programs has resulted in a few species being added that are also suspected or documented in BLM lands outside the Northwest Forest Plan area. See Attachment 1 and 2 for identification of species added to Districts outside of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) area.

Habitat and survey windows

To assist field units outside the NWFP manage and evaluate impacts to these species, Oregon State Office staff transmitted updated habitat and survey window information to the field in late June, and requested an optional reply concerning this information. OSO staff drafted this updated information, drawing from taxa experts involved in the former Survey and Manage program. A final documentation of the habitat and survey windows for these species has been finalized, and will be posted on the interagency Special Status Species website in mid-July.

Training

An informal request for training needs for those field units outside the NWFP area was sent to the field. Oregon State Office and former S&M staff are trying to be responsive to field office needs, designing training to specific requests. If you have not done so, please respond to Carol Hughes, Interagency Special Status Species Specialist at (503) 808-2661 with your needs.

Sources for information about the Program and species

There are a variety of sources of additional information available to you regarding management of the former Survey and Manage species, and the Special Status Species Programs in general:

- Interagency SSS Program website (includes links to Bureau Manual 6840 and OR/WA BLM policy) <http://www.or.blm.gov/issp/>
- BLM OR/WA SSS List <http://web.or.blm.gov/or930/ssbdb/>
- Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center rankings website <http://oregonstate.edu/ornhic/>
- ISMS database <http://isms.r6.fs.fed.us/>
- S&M website (electronic copies of information pertaining to former S&M species and Program) <http://www.or.blm.gov/surveyandmanage/>
- Former S&M Taxa leads/experts

Taxa	Name	Lead/Expert	Phone Number	E-mail
Vascular Plants	Lucile Housley	Lead	541-947-6131	lucile_housley@or.blm.gov
	Nan Vance	Expert	541-750-7302	nvance@fs.fed.us
Bryophytes	Richard Helliwell	Lead	541-957-3337	rhelliwell@fs.fed.us
	Judy Harpel	Expert	360-891-5121	jharpel@fs.fed.us
Lichens	Marty Stein	Lead	503-668-1764	mstein@fs.fed.us
Fungi	Kathleen Cushman	Lead	541-365-7060	kcushman@fs.fed.us
Mollusks	Nancy Duncan	Lead	541-464-3338	nancy_duncan@or.blm.gov
Amphibians	Dave Clayton	Lead	541-957-3479	dave_clayton@fws.gov
	Dede Olson	Expert	541-750-7373	dedeolson@fs.fed.us
Red tree vole	Laura Finley	Lead	530-842-5763	laura_finley@fws.gov
	Brian Biswell	Expert	360-753-7695	bbiswell@fs.fed.us

Organizational changes: new Interagency Oregon/Washington SSSP Staff and anticipated job duties

Transition Coordinator (Kathy Anderson-NTE 1 year detailer)

- Develop operating agreements for interagency programs
- Coordinate Q&A process on ROD related questions
- Develop proposal for physical structure to co-locate the interagency SSSP staffs
- Clarify organizational relationship between R6 and OR/WA BLM and R5 and CA BLM. How information is going to be shared; inter-organizational involvement in task development and implementation
- Serve as key liaison with FWS, States, and NHP for matters relating to the SSSP
- IMG representative for the interagency SSSP (convene meetings, develop agenda)
- Key contact with Alan Christensen, Cal Joyner, Mike Haske, and Mike Mottice
- Key contact with Regional Executives as appropriate
- Maintain centralized record of key documents (decisions, briefing papers, letters to field, IMG decisions, etc. (administrative record))
- Complete transition strategy document
- Work with SSSP PMs on Interagency budget coordination
- Coordinate efforts with S&M Program Manager
- Participate in various Liaison Team sessions/products
- Take the lead, working with the S&M PM, on any personnel actions involving positions moving from S&M to SSSP
- Develop interagency communication plan
- Serve as the key contact for SSSP communication, coordinate meetings with internal and external interests
- Serve as key contact with ISMS Program Manager

Conservation Coordinator (Rob Huff-BLM employee, currently on detail as the Survey and Manage Program Manager; Elaine Rybak, 90-day detailer FS employee)

- Work with Program Managers to determine priority species and tools. Identify other players (state, field, Natural Heritage Programs) who need to be involved
- Establish and/or coordinate with local or Regional teams (existing or future) working on Conservation Assessment and Conservations Strategy efforts and with national level teams as applicable (provide consistency/oversight)
- Serve as liaison between local teams and National Species Leads or Centers of Excellence
- Establish and administer contracts for conservation efforts
- Serve as interagency reviewer of documents containing conservation elements
- Work closely with Forest Plan /BLM RMP revision efforts (to ensure conservation strategies, S&Gs are incorporated in documents)
- Ensure requirements for internal and peer review and Data Quality Act standards
- Quality checking/monitoring how strategies are being implemented (are they being utilized, are they effective)
- Ensure consistency in how strategies are being applied
- Coordinate and track cumulative impacts
- Interact/integrate efforts with the Inventory Coordinator in the annual revision of the Inventory Implementation Guide

Interagency SSSP Assistant (Carol Hughes-FS employee)

- Website development and management
- Coordination with ONHP and State for list development (meeting coordination, key contact point for animals not plants)
- Coordinate SSS list maintenance and database for all species
- Ensure that all raw data from Forest/District survey efforts are provided to Natural Heritage Programs
- Take lead in identifying and coordinating training needs between the trainer and field
- Develop annual report summarizing results of SSSP
- Start leading assessment of policies to look at making policies more consistent. Keep in touch with what is happening at the national level
- Lead coordination of joint listing criteria task (develop options)

Inventory Coordinator (Kelli Van Norman-NTE 1 year detailer-BLM employee)

- Key contact for working on the GeoBOB/NRIS effort including storage of regional inventory data
- Maintain and update the Inventory Implementation Guide, identify what data needs are for the 1200 species and determining how will acquire that information
- Serve as COR for contracts to conduct inventories and species identification
- Coordinate completion of inventories being conducted by field (including ensuring funds are transferred)
- Work with statistician to determine data analysis needed
- Work with Conservation Coordinator to get data to teams developing CA

- Assemble accepted field survey protocols for taxa/species for posting by SSSP Assistant
- Complete random grid effort (contracts), ensure data is recorded in the database, bio-interpretation papers
- Ensure that data, interpretation, and recommendations are provided to ONHP
- Coordinate the development and review of survey protocols as needed
- Identify and coordinate inventory efforts being conducted through other entities (ex. States, private, research, R5) to avoid duplication of effort
- Take lead in future modeling efforts

Inventory Coordinator Assistant (Vacant-Bio-technician, FS employee)

- Assist with training needs
- Maintain interagency inventory database (enter data, follow-up with field when questions arise, data collection)
- Serve as the central receiving point for specimens which would be shipped to taxa experts for identification (set up tracking spread sheets, oversee contractor progress)
- Serve as the project inspector for regional inventory contracts

Data Stewards (Currently Sarah Luce and 1 vacant position-BLM employees)

- Involved in the day-to-day operations of ISMS
- Coordinate ISMS/GeoBOB training needs
- Assisting with development of the NRIS Feasibility Study

Statistician (Marianne Turley-BLM employee)

- Help develop biological interpretation papers on the results of the Random Grid Strategic Survey efforts
 - Collate the draft data
 - Develop code to analyze data
 - Analyze data and provides results
 - Author certain sections of the paper
 - Serves as critical reviewer for the biological interpretation of the results.
- In FY05 continues to analyze S&M data (all work on RTV)
- Work with PNW to utilize the S&M data for addition technical/journal articles
- Critical to modeling efforts currently underway
- Serves as consultant to the Inventory Implementation Guide's guidance team to design inventory and survey efforts pertinent to species-specific questions
- Take the lead in analysis and interpreting of other regional inventory efforts (ex. known site surveys, purposive surveys, etc.)